

Abbeville County Council  
*Regular* ~~Special~~ Meeting  
February 2, 2004  
Minutes

PRESENT: Chairman Thomas, Vice-Chairman Brown, Councilmen Calhoun, Forrester, Gunnells, Walker, and Norris, Director Burns.

Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order.

The Reverend gave the invocation.

The first item on the agenda was consideration of the minutes of the January 12, 2004, regularly scheduled council meeting. Councilman Gunnells made a motion to approve these minutes as written. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-1.

The second item on the agenda was consideration of the minutes of the January 20, 2004, special council meeting. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve these minutes as written. Councilman Gunnells seconded the motion, and the motion carried 7-0-0.

Mr. Alvin Hoover of the Abbeville County Memorial Hospital spoke curing public comment. He gave a general update on critical access hospitals and the increase in funding that will be available.

Mr. Ben Kochenower with the auditing firm of Cline, Brandt, Kochenower & Co., P.A. presented the FY02-03 audit to County Council. He explained that this fiscal year was a good fiscal year placing approximately \$380,000 in the fund balance. He also presented the management letter and stated that the main problem is coordination and cooperation between the departments in Abbeville County. He stated that the audit was qualified with regards to the Clerk of Courts office and fixed assets. He commended staff for the improvements made during the last year and for the corrections already made from last year's management letter. Councilman Walker made a motion to accept the audit as information. The motion was seconded by Councilman Calhoun. The motion Carried 7-0-0.

Chairman Thomas asked if there was any additional items that needed to be added to the agenda. Councilman Gunnells made a motion to add first reading to an ordinance to rezone a tract of land located at the intersection of Highway 72 West and Turkey Creek from FA to BI. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brown. The motion carried 7-0-0 and will be added as item VIII(I).

Under Old Business the following items were deliberated:

The next item on the agenda was second reading of an Ordinance to amend Ordinance 94-3 as amended, creating the Abbeville County Research, Planning and Development Board as an extension of the Abbeville County Government Entity; providing for their two employees to become County Employees and to be eligible for the same benefits as other County employees; providing for the number, method of selection and terms of office; prescribing the duties and responsibilities of the Board. Councilman Norris made a motion to leave this on the table. Councilman Walker seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0. Councilman Brown noted that this needs to be sent to committee with a final recommendation by the end of February 2004. Chairman Thomas sent this ordinance to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee with a report due out by the end of February.

The next item on the agenda was third reading of an ordinance to amend the Abbeville County Zoning Maps so as to change the zoning of a 1.82 acre tract of land located on Highway 28 ByPass from Forest Agriculture (FA) to General Commercial (GC). Councilman Norris made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Forrester. The motion carried 7-0-0.

The next item on the agenda was third reading of an ordinance to amend the Abbeville County Zoning Ordinance so as to amend sections 501.2 and 501.4 thereby allowing up to three (3) principal structures on a lot in the Forest Agriculture (FA) zone. Councilman Gunnells made a motion to approve third reading. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

The final item on the agenda under Old Business was second reading of an ordinance to change the name of Old Abbeville Highway and Old Fairground Road to Cambridge Street Extension. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve second reading. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

Under New Business the following items were deliberated:

The first item on the agenda was a resolution imposing a moratorium on land subdivisions in Abbeville County as requested by the Planning Commission until Land Development Regulations are implemented. Councilman Brown made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0. Chairman Thomas then sent the proposed Land Development Regulations to the Planning Committee of Council for a recommendation.

The next item on the agenda was a resolution amending the Personnel Policy establishing a policy of the County to pay an amount not to exceed \$6,000 in funeral expenses for county employees and volunteers killed in the line of duty. Councilman Walker made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Gunnells seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

The third item on the agenda was a resolution approving the recommendation and expenditure of accommodation tax monies for FY03-04. Councilman Gunnells made a

motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

The next item on the agenda was a resolution authorizing the County Director to issue a Letter of Consistency to H.R. Garrett, Inc., for a C&D landfill on the property of Ms. Cheryl K. Dobbins, 344 Sharon Church Road, Abbeville, South Carolina. Councilman Gunnells made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Norris. The motion carried 7-0-0.

The fifth item on the agenda is a motion to reconsider a resolution approving the financing of the cost of constructing and equipping a new hospital facility by the Board of Trustees of Abbeville County Memorial Hospital through the issuance and delivery of Abbeville County, South Carolina, Hospital Facilities Revenue Bonds (Abbeville County Memorial Hospital Project), in one or more series, and an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of not exceeding \$10,500,000 aggregate principal amount hospital facilities revenue bonds. Councilman Norris made a motion to reconsider this issue. Councilman Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-1-0 with Councilman Forrester voting against the motion.

# The next item on the agenda was a resolution approving the financing of the cost of constructing and equipping a new hospital facility by the Board of Trustees of Abbeville County Memorial Hospital through the issuance and delivery of Abbeville County, South Carolina, Hospital Facilities Revenue Bonds (Abbeville County Memorial Hospital Project), in one or more series, in an aggregate amount not exceeding \$10,500,000; authorizing a petition to The State Budget and Control Board of South Carolina for its approval of such undertaking pursuant to Title 44, Chapter 7, Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended; and providing for other matters relating thereto. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-1-0 with Councilman Forrester voting against the motion.

The seventh item on the agenda was first reading of an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of not exceeding \$10,500,000 aggregate principal amount hospital facilities revenue bonds (Abbeville County Memorial Hospital Project) of Abbeville County, South Carolina, from time to time, in one or more series, pursuant to Article II, Chapter 7, Title 44, Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended; the application of the proceeds of said bonds to be made available to the Board of Trustees of Abbeville County Memorial Hospital to finance the costs of constructing and equipping Phase I of a replacement hospital facility; the execution and delivery of certain instruments relating to the issuance of the aforesaid bonds including a loan agreement between Abbeville County and the Board of Trustees of Abbeville County Memorial Hospital, and an assignment thereof to the purchaser of the bonds; consenting to the delivery of a mortgage of the hospital facilities; and other matters relating thereto. A motion was made by Councilman Brown to approve first reading of the ordinance. It was seconded by Councilman Norris. The motion carried 6-1-0 with Councilman Forrester voting against the motion.

The next item on the agenda was the appointment by Chairman Thomas of Councilmembers to various committees and liaison positions. They are as follow:

**Council Liaisons**

**Finance**

Claude Thomas, Chair  
Billy Norris  
Larry Walker

**Fire Commission**

Ray Gunnells  
David Forrester—Alternate

**Personnel & Administration**

Ray Gunnells, Chair  
Scott Brown  
Claude Thomas

**EMS Commission**

Billy Norris  
John Calhoun, Alternate

**Public Works**

Larry Walker, Chair  
Ray Gunnells  
David Forrester

**Abbeville Hospital**

John Calhoun  
Larry Walker, Alternate

**Intergovernmental Relations**

Billy Norris, Chair  
Claude Thomas  
John Calhoun

**School Board**

Scott Brown  
Ray Gunnells, Alternate

**Planning and Ind. Dev.**

Scott Brown, Chair  
John Calhoun  
Larry Walker

**GLEAMNS Board**

Claude Thomas  
Billy Norris, Alternate

**Education, Recreation, Health & Welfare**

John Calhoun, Chair  
Ray Gunnells  
David Forrester

**Development Board**

Larry Walker  
David Forrester, Alternate

**Public Safety**

David Forrester, Chair  
Scott Brown  
Billy Norris

The next item on the agenda was first reading of an ordinance to rezone a tract of land owned by International Paper and located off Highway 72 West at Turkey Creek from Forest Agriculture (FA) to Basic Industrial (BI). Councilman Gunnells made a motion to give first reading to the ordinance. Councilman Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

There were no committee presentations.

The County Director gave a brief presentation regarding a meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2004, at 6:30 pm at the West Carolina office. The purpose in the meeting is to discuss projects that might be potentially funded with Rural Infrastructure development funds. He invited all council members to the meeting. The County Director then briefed the Council on a letter received from the Chairman of the EMS Commission informing County Council that many of the EMS vehicles are currently old and overused, and that there might be a need before the end of this fiscal year to purchase additional ambulances.

Chairman Thomas then directed the County Director to develop either plaques or resolutions honoring the two officers that were recently killed in the line of duty, and to invite their family members to the next Council meeting for the presentation of these materials.

Councilman Gunnells then made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

Chairman Thomas reconvened the meeting and announced that no action was taken in executive session.

Councilman Brown made a motion to authorize the County Director to enter into and hire a new County Attorney. The motion was seconded by Councilman Norris. The motion carried 7-0-0.

Councilman Norris made a motion to cancel the next regularly scheduled Council meeting on February 9, 2004, and to meet the fourth Monday as scheduled. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

Councilman Norris made a motion to reconsider Item VIIIF on the agenda. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-1-0 with Councilman Forrester voting against the motion.

Councilman Norris made a motion that Item VIIIF be amended to up the amount of the bond issuance from \$10,500,000 to an amount not to exceed \$13,000,000 for all phases of the development. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brown. The motion carried 6-1-0 with Councilman Forrester voting against the motion.

There being no further business, Councilman Brown made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker. The motion carried 7-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 pm